SWAMI RAMANAND TEERTH MARATHWADA UNIVERSITY, NANDED

A Proposal for Doctoral Research Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities

Entitled

"SHIFTING PARADIGMS OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS IN THE SELECT NOVELS BY SALLY ROONEY : A CRITICAL STUDY"

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1) Introduction :

In the embark of twenty first century, the novels become global. Since at least the late 1980s, ambitions writers have been imaging a new kind of narrative called the global, planetary, international or simply word novel and in recent years, their visions have started to come to fruition. Paralleling the much-remarked phenomena of accelerated migration and increased interpenetration of global markets, this new genre of the novel is changing the face of twenty-first century literature. The novel offers a vibrant arena for critically engaging with our contemporary world and scrutinies the genre's political, ethical and aesthetic value.

21st century novels deal with current themes and issues and it also reflects a technological culture, it also breaks traditional writing rules. Hence, themes and issues, now are freely written, expressed, and conveyed through technology. Gender sensitive novels written by women continue to flourish. It teaches us about life by exposing us to the lives of different people through their stories and from these vicarious experiences. These are also called as millennial novels.

The term "millennial" encompasses the adjective millennial as applied to fiction written on either side of the millennium of the year 2000, by authors of any generation. "Millennial" as an adjective delineating author born in the decades from around the 1980s – 1990s – 1996. They are called millennial because the oldest members of this generation were reaching adulthood at the turn of the millennium. Millennial or generation also known as digital natives, technology is part of their everyday lives, all their activities are mediated by screen, use of computers, smart phones, internet, communication through text or social media.

Salley Ronney is one of the younger millennial writers/novelists at the age of 26. She stepped her foot in this literary world with the debut novel – Conversations with Friends. She is self-proclaimed Irish Marxist, one of the ambitious authors born on 20th February, 1991. She has published three novels.

Rooney's work has general critical acclaim and commercial success, and she is regarded as one of the foremost millennial writers. Time named her one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Conversations with Friends (2017)

Normal People (2018)

Beautiful World, Where Are You (2021)

The former two were adapted into the television miniseries

Sally Rooney received many awards at her young age and in her early carrier.

- 2017 – The Sunday Times – Young writer of the year.
- 2018 – Irish Book award – Novel of the year – Normal People
- 2018 – Costa Book Awards – Normal People
- 2019 – Encore Award – Normal People
- 2022 – Dalkey Literary Award – Beautiful World Where Are You, Fleet, attuned writer.

Sally Rooney is such a talented author with interested in accuracy. Her first two novels managed to be sexually exact without being smutty and this is an interesting trick. In its repudiation of shame, the style represents an advance of some kind and it may be this autonomy that irritates those notional critics who are nationally male and misogynistic. Rooney writes about love.

If 'romance' is one key insult here, 'millennial' is another. The divergence of opinion is styled, accurately. The intensities of experience, so coolly describe are larger than is socially useful. Her heroines are not stereotypical, dumb, submissive, complimentary but smartest leaders protagonist.

To sum-up, Sally Rooney's novels are about current themes – projecting the challenges before generation, social, economical, political, power dynamics, changing cultural values, openness, independent and confident self-centered personalities (female characters being young & fragile) materialistic

and lazy image-driven adults. Social liberalism in comparison with earlier generations. For the better understanding of Rooney's revolutionary novels, it is needed to be closely analyzed. Any study in isolation of each other will be incomplete.

2) The Statement of the Research Topic :

"SHIFTING PARADIGMS OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS IN THE SELECT NOVELS BY SALLY ROONEY: A CRITICAL STUDY"

3) Hypothesis :

1. Sally Rooney's novels explore the complexities in interpersonal relationships.
2. The ethos and milieu of the millennial generation find an outlet in the novels of Sally Rooney.
3. Sally Rooney's novels enlighten the power dynamics of various social groups.
4. Female characters in the novels of Sally Rooney are both smart and un-stereotypical.
5. The modes of interpersonal communication in the millennial generation engender isolation and miscommunication leading to self-destruction in the canon of Sally Rooney.

4) Data Collection :

The data required for the present research will be of two kinds:

Primary Data:

This comprises the three selected novels of Sally Rooney for the present research and critical opinions by the author herself. The following books, in particular, will be analyzed critically and commented upon throughout the thesis.

1. *Conversations with Friends (2017)*
2. *Normal People (2018)*
3. *Beautiful World, Where Are You (2021)*

Secondary Data:

In the present doctoral research, the secondary data will be the critical opinions of the major critics through printed and e-books, peer reviewed journals, articles in reputed periodicals, interviews, the reviews of the selected novels as well as from the encyclopedias and the dictionaries of literary works. All the print and e-resources, whenever necessary, will be used and acknowledged following the guidelines on research citation.

Research Methodology:

Textual analysis and the interpretative method will be the central agenda of this research work. The present research work doesn't call for any field work; hence, the ninth (9^{th}) edition of the M.L.A. Methodology of Research Citation will be strictly adhered to.

5) Limitations of the Study :

The present research is limited to the following three novels of Sally Rooney.

1. *Conversations with Friends (2017)*
2. *Normal People (2018)*
3. *Beautiful World, Where Are You (2021)*

The three selected novels will be studied to explore and analyze the dynamism and alter dynamic power plays through the analysis of plot, characterization, human relations, thematic concerns.

6) A Statement of Aims and Objectives :

1. To critically analyze and reach to the conclusions regarding the complex interpersonal relationships in the select novels of Sally Rooney.

2. To study the paradigms and approaches of the millennial generation represented in the select novels of Sally Rooney.

3. To do the critical analysis of power dynamics of social groups depicted in the novels of Sally Rooney.

4. To explore the flaws of social media communication as underlined in the select novels.

5. To achieve an understanding and analyze the terms associated with the writings of Sally Rooney like 'millennial novels, 'Marxist novels' and "female subjectivity".

7) Chapter Scheme:

Chapter-I : Introduction :

The first introductory chapter will contain the a detailed review of the literature in the research area.

In order to justify the rationale and significance as well as the limitations of of the present research title. The research methodology will be mentioned in detail with the mention to the primary and secondary resources used for the present research. A brief biological account on the life, times and works of Sally Rooney will also be supplied. The chapter will also introduce the works of Sally Rooney and their significance in the exploration of the milieu and ethos of the millennial generation. A brief outline of the entire thesis will also be provided with at the end of this chapter. Importantly, the novels of Sally Rooney will be introduced in their context.

Chapter-II : Conversations with Friends :

This chapter will be a close and critical analysis of Sally Rooney's debut novel *Conversations with Friends* published in the year 2017. The multifold themes in the novel, especially, love, intimacy, desire and relationships will be critically analyzed in order to understand the complexity of interpersonal relationships. A preliminary exploration of the novel reveals that it is about how the characters are able to love and find happiness within the social

constructs. Sally Rooney's novel communicates the possibility of finding other ways of loving and growing outside of more conventional constructs.

This is the story of two late teenage friends who are trying to get a grip on their sexual orientation. While these friends—Frances and Bobbi, enjoy the company of each other and have conversations on all the topics including, love and capitalism, they try to understand their own self. Their world view and their relationship undergoes a paradigm shift when they come in contact with a married couple—Melissa and Nick. While Melissa is a successful photographer, her husband Nick is a handsome actor. The relationship among these characters grows in complexity. As the novel deals with multifold aspects of interpersonal relationships, friendship, sexuality, and the issues of adulteration, it has a research potential regarding the exploration of these aforementioned issues.

About *Conversations with Friends*, it is opined that its author Rooney has written a book not just about the complexities of desire in the modern age, but also complexities of being a young woman, and having to deal with the varied consequences of that desire many of these still aren't dubbed acceptable. In her novels' highly intellectual, educated characters trapped in anxiety.

Chapter-III : Normal People :

This third chapter will be the analysis of Sally Rooney's second millennial novel published in 2018 – *Normal People*. This book is hailed as a feminist novel. The novel will be critically analyzed in detail in the light of the objectives of this doctoral research. The novel is significant for its depiction of female subjectivity, their relating to their setting, mutual fascination, friendship and love. Moreover, the awareness of inequality further complicates the interpersonal relationships which will be critically analyzed in this chapter.

In this novel too there are complexities of human ties set in a small town located in the west of Ireland. Though two lead character—Connell and Marianne— have grown up together but the their similarities just end there. They have their differences yet their conversation turns out to be exciting and

electrifying. Through these verbal exchanges they start exploring their ideas of themselves and their subjectivity starts taking a shape. Therefore, *Normal People* is a story of the mutual fascination of the two lead characters as well as it is a tale of friendship and love. The relationship between the characters grows in complexity due to their awareness of inequality deeply rooted their situatedness in their classes. Capitalism, market values, and the anxiety of the millennial generation adds into the complexity of interpersonal relations which asks for systematic study.

Chapter-IV: Beautiful World, Where Are You :

The fourth chapter deals will be for a close and critical analysis of the novel *Beautiful World, Where Are You*. It is the third millennium novel of Sally Rooney published in 2021. The novel brings to fore the questions of meaning to life and the protagonist's endeavours as well as about art, friendship and price of fame. As a feature of the millennial society, the characters in this novel mainly communicate to each other through e-mails. They get acquainted to each other through a dating app. The complexities of such casual meetings and fruitlessness of search for true intimacy will be explored to reach to a conclusion regarding the complexity of human relationships.

The plot of the novel is woven around Alice and Eileen who are the best friends. They are about to turn 30 and who share a good bond between themselves to the depths of their thoughts and emotions. The two characters have equal disapproval from capitalism and what it has done to the human relationships and literary tastes of the masses. They observe civilization is on the verge of collapse and beauty seems to have its last breath. Where every art is commoditized, the novel has become irrelevant as a form of literary expression. Alice is a successful young writer and Eileen works for a literary magazine. Both lead their separate love stories which they share to each other in long emails. They have other casual acquaintances on Tinder, a dating app. Both Alice and Eileen suffer meaninglessness. Despite this, they continue to

understand and explore their milieu and emotions. The novel is a mediation on love, fame

This chapter deals with minute observation of characters, romance, love, fame and its emotionally devastating consequences which need to be analyzed further.

Chapter-IV: Conclusion:

This last chapter will sum up the different arguments and observations recorded in the earlier chapters. In the chapter, the possible areas of further research in this topic will also be suggested. The findings and suggestions as well as the conclusions will be reached at after discussion with the experts in academic research in novel. The chapter will also bring out the significance of the study with its relationship to the current trends and modes of literary writing. The concluding chapter will present a theoretical framework in perspective.

8) Importance and the Relevance of the Present Study :

An observant survey done in the research is disclosed that most of the research is done on Indian author,but not yet on a millennial writer Sally Rooney. Many modern Irish writers are studied like – Maeve Binchy, Anne Enright, Eimer McBride, Oscar Wilde, Jonathan Swift, J.M.Synge, Samuel Beckett etc. but not Sally Rooney.

"Sally Rooney, in Conversations with Friends seems to be Truman Capote reborn, with more than a dash of the high intelligence of Elizabeth Bowen." – Sebastian Barry, Observer Books of the year

"Smart, stylish, wry, witty and utterly self-assured, Conversations with Friends is the debut of blazing new talent. It captures intensely, painfully and perfectly what it is to be twenty something in this part of the world in the twenty-first century : self-aware hyper-articulate and yet completely lost. This is a Catcher in the Rye for a whole new generation of young women."

– Lucy Caldwell, author of Multitudes

Rooney is admired and praised for her second novel 'Normal People'.

"The 27 year old novelist defining a generation . . . . Sally Rooney is one of the most exciting voices of ['Normal People's] sheer immediacy and rawness gripped me, to the point that I read it in 24 yours, finishing at 3 a.m."

– Guardian

"Sally Rooney's latest book 'Beautiful World, Where Are You' is touching the heights of popularity. I can't think of another writer who so perfectly captures the intensity and the pain of both friendship and romantic love." – Red

Rooney is certainly interested in accuracy. There has been such a lot of noise around Sally Rooney's work, such an amount of fervour and possibly manufactured division. There is cult of Sally Rooney at the same time many people hate her. To have the proper idea behind this these mentioned novels must be critically studied.

9) Bibliography :

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Research Student	**Research Supervisor**
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Date: 25/08/2023

Place: Latur

Date: 25/08/2023

To,
The Deputy Registrar,
P. G. Section,
Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University,
Nanded.

Sub.: Regarding submission of a Proposal for doctoral research in English.

Ref.: Your Official Notice no. PG/2023-24/RRC/Humanities/6622 dt. 21/08/2023.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the subject and in response to the reference mentioned above, my research student Todkar Kranti Pandurang is herewith submitting a proposal for her Doctoral Research in English under the Faculty of Humanities to the present university for the upcoming RRC in English scheduled on 11/09/2023. As per the rules and ordinances, I am herewith forwarding 05 copies of the research proposal along with the necessary documents.

Therefore, you are requested to kindly accept the same and cooperate.

Yours,

Dr. Dnyaneshwar S. Choudhari

Date: 25/08/2023

To,

The Deputy Registrar,

P. G. Section,

Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University,

Nanded.

Sub.: Regarding submission of a Proposal for doctoral research in English.

Ref.: Your Official Notice no. PG/2023-24/RRC/Humanities/6622 dt. 21/08/2023.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the subject and in response to the reference mentioned above, my research student Ugile Priyanka Sopan is herewith submitting a proposal for her Doctoral Research in English under the Faculty of Humanities to the present university for the upcoming RRC in English scheduled on 11/09/2023. As per the rules and ordinances, I am herewith forwarding 05 copies of the research proposal along with the necessary documents.

Therefore, you are requested to kindly accept the same and cooperate.

Yours,

Dr. Dnyaneshwar S. Choudhari

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